

**ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus are provided for forming a measure of difference between two data vectors, in particular for use in a trainable data classifier system. An association coefficient determined for the two vectors is used to form the measure of difference. A geometric difference between the two vectors may advantageously be combined with the association coefficient in forming the measure of difference. A particular application is the determination of conflicts between items of training data proposed for use in training a neural network to detect telecommunications account fraud or network intrusion.

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